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COAL MINES INCREASE OUTPUT AND SALES;
SHANGHAI FACTORIES CONTINUE EXODUS

NEW SYSTEM IMPROVES EFFICIENCY -- Mukden Tung-pei Jih-pao, 9 Apr 50

Signal results have been obtained by the Hao-kang coal mines since the adoption of a new production movement known as concentrated production. Adopted in November 1949, the movement involves reduction in the number of shafts in operation, and concentration of machinery and manpower. As a result, efficiency has been raised and waste and costs reduced. This may be seen by a comparison of data.

Before the movement, production averaged 6,000 tons per 24-hour period, and each coal carrier bearing coal to the surface averaged 0.58 tons per horsepower. After the new system was introduced, production averaged 7,200 tons and carrier efficiency was increased to 0.96 tons per horsepower. Efficiency of water pumps and ventilators, measured in terms of tons of coal production per horsepower (0.37 tons per horsepower) was raised by 40.6 percent.

Previously, the 3,874 miners had dug in 350 scattered areas, producing 6,000 tons daily, or 1.97 tons per man [sic]. After the new system was effected, digging areas were reduced to 136 and miners to 3,188, but by the first part of March 1950, production had risen to 7,200, or 2.83 tons per man [sic], representing an increase in efficiency of 43 percent. More efficient exploitation of seams was also possible and costs were lowered.

Administratively, the mine has been divided into 13 administrative pits, each with one pit foreman and three deputy foremen, the first in charge of coal extraction and safety, the second in charge of machinery and electricity, and the third in charge of costs and equipment supply. This policy of specific individual responsibility has improved the accuracy of supply records, lessened mistakes in wage payments, increased ventilation, and prevented accidents. Concentration of ventilators in one section of the mine has resulted in lowering gas content of the air to 0.5 percent, so that lights can now be struck without danger. In the same section, accidents have decreased from 159 in the 4 months prior to the new system, to 72 in the 4 months afterwards. Casualties for the same periods decreased 61 percent.

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Although the new system has enjoyed initial success, certain aspects of mine operation can still be made more efficient and productive. As far as equipment is concerned, the mine has a capacity of 11,000 tons per day. The main difficulty lies in raising the capacity of the carriers. Each 300-horsepower carrier should be able to bear a daily load to the surface of 1,000 - 1,200 tons, but only a few are carrying as much as 1,000 tons. Further efforts will be made to concentrate production and a goal of 80 percent mechanized extraction of coal has been set for 1950.

CHINA COAL COMPANY PUSHES SALES -- Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, 12 Apr 50

The China Coal Industry Construction Materials Company has stated that there are large supplies of coal in the stocks of government companies, while, at the same time, many medium-sized and small towns and rural areas are experiencing a coal shortage. The present most urgent task of the company is to change this situation.

Except for the Central and South China Regional District, sales fell behind quotas for the first half of March so the sales companies in these areas have been putting nearly all members of their staffs into the field to sell coal, each with a sales goal. Good results have been reported from some places. This special effort was based on the principle of small profits and large turnover, so prices were cut in many places. At the same time, an attempt was made to improve the quality of coal sold by more careful grading and screening.

Some of the branch companies still have the old "official" outlook toward their work. They wish to do only wholesale business and despise the idea of retail sales. This faulty attitude must be thoroughly eradicated. Another shortcoming in the system, especially in Shanghai and Tientsin, is the shortage of coal shops that sell in small lots of less than one ton for family use. Another lack in these cities is of coal processors to make briquettes for kitchen use. Companies must arrange for many more small retail outlets for the convenience of the general public. However, 200 such new outlets are being planned in Peiping and 500 in Tientsin. In all areas attention should be paid to opening outlets at the small stations along the railroads.

MACHINERY FACTORY MOVES TO CHIU-CHIANG -- Shanghai Wen-hui Pao, 8 Apr 50

The Fu-t'ai Machinery Factory of Shanghai, producer of rotary carding and spinning machines for the textile industry, is being moved to Chiu-chiang in Kiangsi Province. Some of its 70 or more machines have already been moved, and all of its 108 employees are in the process of moving. The transfer is expected to be completed by 15 April 1950.

TA-HSIN PAPER MILL TO KAN-CHOU -- Shanghai Ta Kung Pao, 8 Apr 50

The Ta-hsin Paper Mill of Shanghai was sold to the Kiangsi Provincial government on 26 March, and is to be set up at Kan-chou in Kiangsi Province. The factory is being dismantled, and its machinery is being readied for shipment. All of its 150 employees will go with the factory.

According to a representative of the Kiangsi Provincial government who handled the purchase transaction, 76 out of a total of 87 hsiens in Kiangsi Province are producing paper, all by hand, with the exception of one small paper factory in Kan-chou. There is a power plant in Kan-chou which can produce 1,100 kilowatts of electricity, and only 500 kilowatts are now being used; therefore, even if this new paper factory uses 300 kilowatts, there will still be a surplus of 300 kilowatts.

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COTTON MILL TO HSIN-HSIANG -- Shanghai Chieh-fang Jih-pao, 8 Apr 50

To overcome difficulties in the acquisition of raw material and the finding of a market area, Shanghai's privately owned Ch'eng-te Cotton Mill has decided to move its entire factory to Hsin-hsiang in Honan Province, and plans to establish the Chung-yuan Cotton Mill Corporation as a joint stock corporation with the North China Cooperative Association (Hua-pei Ho-tso-she). The Ch'eng-te Cotton Mill was equipped with 1,112 spindles and 288 looms.

SHANGHAI LIFTS RESTRICTIONS ON ELECTRICITY -- Shanghai Ta Kung Pao, 13 Apr 50

Shanghai -- The Shanghai Public Utility Bureau announced today that, effective 15 April 1950, restrictions on private and commercial consumption of electricity, with the exception of neon lights and electric stoves, will be lifted.

Because of the extensive damages caused to the municipal power plants by the KMT bombings since 6 February 1950, a restriction order was issued by the Shanghai Public Utility Bureau on 19 February. Since this time, however, most of the damage has been repaired.

UNIFIED FISCAL SYSTEM IMPROVES EFFICIENCY -- Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, 12 Apr 50

Ten monopoly corporations in Peiping have together turned in 6.2 billion yuan to the Peiping repository since the unified treasury system was started.

Important effects on the conduct of enterprises themselves, which have been noted as the result of the new policy, include: (1) better planning; (2) better management and greater efforts to expand business by opening new outlets and extending business hours; and (3) economy in spending, and the use of by-products and what were formerly considered waste products.

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